

Guyana Chronicle

[The following article appeared in the April 14, 1978 issue of the Guyana Chronicle.]

Peoples Temple Show: A Success!

The Peoples Temple Agricultural Project presented its cultural variety show entitled "A Cooperative Feeling" last week at the National Cultural Center with a style never before seen in Guyana, which literally prompted the audience to shout for more, following some of the performances. The theme of Cooperation was carried throughout the program, which consisted of over 20 different presentations, including Guyana's own Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and the Yoruba Singers. Although the program ran past midnight few people could be seen leaving.

"The show kept us on the edge of our seats with unique and exciting performances that always had us wondering what might be next," said two members of the Pegasus Soundwaves (a renowned Guyanese entertainment band.)

One singer, Dianne Wilkinson, moved many to tears with a song that she had adapted called "Guyana is so Beautiful". A talented twelve-year-old Temple boy who seems to have a bright future, delivered a powerful song he wrote entitled "Guyana is for Me".

Most of the show's song and dance numbers were accompanied by a brass band, "Jonestown Express", which one experienced stage crewman said was the best band he had heard in the Caribbean. He noted the hard work put in by the band, which often rehearsed from morning till midnight during the week preceding the show.

The presentation of donations raised by the Peoples Temple was made to various local charities, including The National Relief Committee, the Maha Saba Temple (a home for orphans), Bellfield Home for the Aged and the Guyana Council of Churches (of which Peoples Temple is a member).

Presently there are over 1000 persons living at the Peoples Temple's Agricultural Project at Jonestown, near Port Kaituma in the Northwest District. Over 100 members traveled to the cultural show via the Temple's boat—a fishing trawler used also as a medical mercy vessel, and to transport supplies.

The program was not without its light moments both in song and dances,

as well as in comedy skits. One act was a man with red wavy hair, dressed in a glittering jump suit, high heeled boots and dark glasses—a new rock and roll singing sensation. Young girls went screaming onto the stage hysterically, trying to get a memento of his attire. All that was left when they finished with him was a fat old man in polka dot undershorts and with a bald head. They even took his false teeth. The audience roared and few could miss the statement on how some singing stars are nothing more than packaged commodities.

All in all, the show seemed to contain something to delight everyone while promoting the theme that cooperative living can best solve the problems of a developing country. The Peoples Temple will be planning for further cultural shows.

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